

SIR,

The following is a copy of a Petition, signed by inhabitants of Vancouver Island, and forwarded to the Government of Canada for the purpose of showing them the importance of making the Western Terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railroad on Vancouver Island.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ANTHONY MUSGRAVE, GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, &c., &c., &c.

*May it please your Excellency :*

The Petition of the Undersigned, Citizens of Victoria and other Inhabitants of Vancouver Island, humbly sheweth.

That amongst the anticipated benefits to accrue to the Colony of British Columbia from its becoming a part of the Dominion, the grand undertaking of Canada to construct within Ten Years a Railway from "the Pacific" to connect with the Railway System of the Confederacy, is obviously regarded as by far the greatest.

That we firmly believe that this Railway, in order to prove a success, must be intended to serve not only the interests of the Dominion, but also, and perhaps in a higher degree, those of the Mother Country, particularly as facilitating communication with Japan, China and other Asiatic countries.

That Vancouver Island, possessing as she does a most advantageous and an envied geographical position upon the North Pacific, the most convenient and suitable harbors, the chief commercial City, the larger population, the seat of government, the station of Her Majesty's Fleet and proposed Dry Dock at Esquimalt, extensive deposits of coal and iron, as well as other invaluable natural resources, must be considered as the most desirable, as it is, perhaps, the intended, route for the proposed Railway to the Pacific.

Whilst fully convinced that Vancouver Island offers the best and most desirable route for the Railway, we at the same time truly believe it to be a perfectly practicable one, and the only one by which the fullest amount of advantage can be gained, in time of war as well as peace, but as in consequence of the imperfect surveys of a portion of the intervening country, some now unknown obstacle may yet prevent the immediate construction of the Railway through that particular part of the route, we have to ask that the portion of the Railway on Vancouver Island may not on this account be delayed.

That almost all the import and export trade of the Colony is at present carried on at Victoria and Esquimalt, the chief City of the Colony, where a large amount of capital has been invested. That a large number of her Citizens and Property-holders fear, that should the Railway terminate elsewhere than on the Island, and there not be any connecting link between Victoria or Esquimalt and the Railway, it may, if our suggestions are not adopted, be the means of diverting the trade and doing great injury and injustice to the inhabitants of Vancouver Island without yielding them any compensating benefits.

In order to carry out our suggestions, to obviate or remove any obstacle to the immediate confirmation of union, and to promote the best interests and prosperity of the Dominion, as also those of British Columbia, we humbly pray that the following may be inserted in the Terms of Union, namely :

"If after the necessary Surveys for the purpose of the Railway shall have been made, it be found impracticable to bring it at present to Vancouver Island, then a Railway upon the same terms and conditions as the other portion of the Railway shall be constructed between Victoria, Esquimalt and Nanaimo."

And we respectfully pray that your Excellency will place yourself in immediate communication with the Government of Canada, to learn whether the Dominion Government will accept the above addition as part of the Terms of Confederation, and we further hope that your Excellency will support the Prayer of this Petition. And as in duty bound, we will ever pray, &c.